

GENERAL SCIENCE

Future Leaders in Science

Eight girls and 32 boys have been invited for an all-expense visit to Washington to compete in the finals for scholarships totaling \$11,000.

► FORTY future leaders in American science—eight girls and 32 boys—have been invited for a five-day, all-expense visit to Washington. While at the annual Science Talent Institute, they will undergo final selection for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships in the Seventh Annual Science Talent Search conducted by Science Clubs of America, administered by Science Service.

The 40 trip-winners were chosen by a panel of judges after a nation-wide competition in which top-ranking seniors in all the public, parochial and private high schools in the continental United States were invited to participate. Entrants, representing every state in the Union, totaled 16,412, of whom 3,161 completed the stiff science aptitude examination, submitted recommendations and scholarship records and wrote an essay on "My Scientific Project."

At the end of their five-day stay in Washington, Feb. 27 through March 2, the judges will announce the winners of the scholarships. One girl and one boy will each receive a \$2,400 Westinghouse Grand Science Scholarship (\$600 a year for four years). Each of eight additional winners will get a \$400 Westinghouse Science Scholarship (\$100 a year for four years). In addition, \$3,000 in Westinghouse Science Scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the judges.

Have Choice of Schools

Winners of these scholarship awards may enter any college, university or technical school of their choice.

Chosen without regard to geographic distribution, the 40 trip-winners come from 30 localities in 16 states. One state, South Dakota, this year sends a winner to Washington for the first time. This brings to 35 the total of states that have been represented by winners.

Five high schools in the United States have produced more than one winner each this year. Five of the boys will come from New York City: three from Stuyvesant High School and two from the Bronx High School of Science. Forest Hills (N. Y.) High School will send two girls and one boy, and Lincoln High School in Canton, Ohio, will send one

girl and one boy. There will be two boys from the Public Latin School in Boston.

A number of high schools throughout the country represented in this year's list of Science Talent Search winners have produced one or more winners in previous competitions. There have been nine from the Bronx High School of Science, and five from Stuyvesant High School. There have been three each from Herbert Hoover High School at Glendale, Calif., West High School at Madison, Wis., and Forest Hills (N. Y.) High School; two each from Alexander Hamilton High School at Los Angeles, Evans-ton Township (Ill.) High School and Oak Park Township (Ill.) High School, and one each from Midwood High School at Brooklyn, N. Y., and Sewanhaka High School at Floral Park, N. Y.

All of the winners live at home and attend their local or nearby public, parochial or private high schools.

High Standing in Class

Half of the Science Talent Search trip winners rank first, second or third in their graduating classes, which range in size from 31 to 750 students. Approximately 62% of the winners' fathers and 52% of their mothers attended colleges.

These trip-winning students are not in the "greasy grind" category; most of them have a wide variety of outside activities. At least eight are presidents or other officers in science clubs affiliated with Science Clubs of America.

Many of the fortunate 40 have already chosen the lines of study and research they wish to pursue. Theoretical physics attracts 12; two hope to enter medicine; nine intend to take up chemistry, either for research or for engineering applications; four want to go into biochemistry. Others indicate interest in mathematics, astronomy, engineering, genetics and biology.

Judges of the Science Talent Search are: Dr. Harlow Shapley, Director of the Harvard College Observatory and president of Science Service; Dr. Harold A. Edgerton and Dr. Steuart Henderson Britt, psychologists of New York City, and Dr. Rex E. Buxton, psychiatrist of Washington D. C. Drs. Edgerton and

Britt design the Science Aptitude Examination each year for the Science Talent Search.

In addition to the 40 trip-winners who will attend the Science Talent Institute in Washington, an Honorable Mentions list of 260 in the Seventh Annual Science Talent Search will be announced. These high-ranking contestants will be recommended to colleges and universities for their science aptitude. If they are as fortunate as those previously included in the Honorable Mentions list, they will receive offers of scholarships from many institutions of higher education.

Activities of Past Winners

Most of the winners in the six Science Talent Searches held since 1942 are now students in colleges and universities where they are preparing themselves for scientific careers. Many have already completed the four-year course leading to the bachelor's degree, and six will soon become Ph.D.'s. A few are already engaged in full-time jobs in industry or on university teaching or research staffs. None of the 240 previous winners is more than 24 years old.

Scholarships are provided and the Science Talent Search made financially possible by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation, an organization endowed by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, for the purpose of promoting education and science.

Through an arrangement with the State Academies of Science, 11 states are conducting state Science Talent Searches concurrently with the national competition. In these 11 states all entries in the national Science Talent Search will be turned over to state judging committees. From their entries they will choose state winners and award scholarships to various colleges and universities. Cooperating states are: Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1948

ARCHAEOLOGY

African Expedition Finds Fossils of Late Stone Age

► POLISHED stone implements of Late Stone Age men, together with fossil animals, have been found by the Egyptian party of the University of California African Expedition along the shores of a now-dry Neolithic lake.

The finding, made by Dr. S. A. Huzayyin, archaeologist of Farouk I University and a member of the expedition

staff, was reported at the expedition's headquarters at Kom Oshim near Cairo in the Faiyum Desert.

The recovery of Stone Age artifacts together with fossil animals will make it possible to reconstruct the life and con-

ditions of this period, and possibly necessitate a redating of the lake, Dr. Huzayin said.

The fossil specimens include hippopotamus, wart hog, gazelle, large ante-lope, elephant, crocodile, turtle, and fish.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1948

GENERAL SCIENCE

17 Expeditions Planned

Scientists of the Chicago Natural History Museum will go to Bermuda to study sea life, to Burma to collect birds, to Peru and Bolivia to collect plants.

► STRANGE creatures from more than a mile under the surface of the ocean off Bermuda, fossils of invertebrates 450,000,000 years old from the mountains of Pennsylvania, birds from Burma and insects from Guatemala are a few of the prizes which scientists from the Chicago Natural History Museum plan to collect this year.

In all, 17 expeditions at locations ranging from Africa to Arkansas and from Alaska to Burma will make studies and collect specimens.

The three-month Bermuda Deep-Sea Expedition will start work June 1, under the joint sponsorship of the museum and the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Inc., St. Georges, Bermuda. The "Caryn," a 98-foot ketch loaned to the Bermuda station by the Oceanographic Institution of Woods Hole, Mass., will be used by the expedition to study sea life at depths of from 8,000 to 12,000 feet.

Loren P. Woods, curator of the museum's division of fishes, will be leader of the expedition, with Dr. Dugald E. S. Brown heading the Bermuda group.

Another large expedition will be the museum's archaeological expedition to the Southwest, where a large staff will continue excavations of prehistoric Indian sites. Dr. Paul S. Martin, chief curator of anthropology, will lead.

The Rush Watkins Southeast Asia Expedition will leave Chicago in September to collect birds in Burma. Mr. Watkins, a Chicago businessman, and Dr. Austin L. Rand, the museum's curator of birds, will conduct the work. Melvin A. Traylor, Jr. museum associate, will head another ornithological expedition which will collect Mexican birds in the Mt. Orizaba region, beginning in June.

Eugene S. Richardson, curator of invertebrate fossils, will collect invertebrates of the Ordovician period in the mountains of Pennsylvania, while Dr. Rainer Zangerl, curator of fossil reptiles,

will conduct a search for specimens of prehistoric reptiles and amphibians in the Alcovia formation of central Wyoming.

Four botanical groups will be in the field. Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, curator of economic botany, will spend several weeks next month in Cuba with Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, curator emeritus of botany, who is studying palm genetics. In April, Dr. Cutler will fly to Peru and Bolivia to collect plant specimens in those countries. Paul C. Standley, curator of the museum's herbarium will collect botanical specimens in Central America, beginning in September, while Dr. Francis Drouet, curator of cryptogamic botany, will at the same time collect mosses, seaweeds and other specimens in coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico from Louisiana to Florida.

Harry Hoogstraal, assistant curator of insects, is in Africa with the University of California expedition, and Rupert L. Wenzel, assistant curator of insects, will leave in April for Guatemala where he will collect insects for the museum.

Mammal specimens from the state of Arkansas will be studied by Colin C. Sanborn, curator of mammals, starting in March, while the assistant curator of mammals, Philip Hershkovitz, will leave in October for Colombia to begin a year of mammal collecting in that country.

Dr. Robert Kriss Wyant, curator of economic geology, and Harry Changnon, curator of exhibits, will collect ores in the Black Range Mountains, N. Mex., and Dr. Sharat K. Roy, chief curator of geology, will continue his field study in the Adirondack Mountain areas of New York, New Hampshire and perhaps Massachusetts.

Material for use in a habitat group of the precious sea otter will be collected in Alaska this summer by Frank Wonder, staff taxidermist.

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TECHNOLOGY

Short Length Nylon Fibers Make Wool-Like Garments

► LADIES' stockings, more sheer than any you have seen, and warm, wool-like socks for men, both made of nylon, were displayed at the DuPont plant in Seaford, Del.

Other all-nylon products shown were: woolly sweaters, soft blankets, upholstery and felt.

Some of these new nylon developments are made possible by cut-to-length, staple nylon. The synthetic fibers are stretched, crimped and cut into lengths of two or three inches. Instead of the sheer fabrics such as are produced from

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